

The Brethren Evangelist

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TERMS

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Personal Mention

Sister Augustine's report shows plainly that Sister Detwiler is in the field.

Brother Keim reports one accession to the church at Gratis, Ohio, on the last Sabbath of his ministry at that place.

Brother Kiefer writes on a postal card: "One more added to the Zion Hill church by baptism, and church in good working order."

Brother J. Allen Miller has been quite ill, and while at this writing he is better, is yet far from well. We request the prayers of the church in his behalf that he may gain strength for his duties.

A short item from Brother Talley for publication was pigeon holed by mistake. We note the mention of five accessions by baptism, and do not remember whether report of it has been made or not.

Brethren Kimmel and Cassel speak very encouragingly of the work in Dayton. We trust Brother Livengood will see his way clear to return to the Dayton people after National Conference and shepherd them.

The missionary report by Brother Cassel in this issue is quite encouraging. The income seems to have been equal to the expense, and if that be so, we feel to congratulate the church, or those who have supported the missions.

Brother L. S. Bauman continues his work as general agent for the board, and is doing good work. He will close his work September 3, and on October 1, take up pastoral laborers in Philadelphia, Pa. May success attend his labors wherever it may be.

Brother B. C. Moomaw in his article, "Civilization," brings a strong indictment against our much boasted civilization, but not too strong. We are glad to announce that minister White who is now in this country denies that the German Emperor ever gave the instructions to his soldiers reported in the papers.

There is truth and thought for reflection in what Brother Balsbaugh writes: "Beloved Brother, Oh, how deeply do I grieve for the disruption of our brotherhood. Is this according to John 17:21-23? Is Christ pleased with our schisms? If we all knew Philipp. 2:5, we would be one solid, loving, powerful fraternity. As it is, we are weak, because we lack the unity of the Godhead."

A four days' meeting by Brother Knepper, prior to the communion service in the Summit Mills congregation, resulted in seven accessions by baptism, and one by relation, making a total of eight. Brother Knepper writes that Meyersdale is on the boom in business. We trust the people of that town will not allow its material interests to get too far in advance of the spiritual.

Brother and Sister Keim arrived at Ashland, last Monday afternoon, and on Tuesday morning began preparation at the hall, putting it in order for the students when school opens. They have made no small sacrifice, as already stated, in leaving a comfortable pastorate and taking up this work. They will make the hall a home for all who may wish to room and board there while attending school. Those societies who contemplate furnishing rooms at the hall should do so soon as possible, as fixtures are necessary to make ready rooms sufficient to accommodate the students who are likely to apply for accommodations. If you wish to know what is required to furnish a room, please write to Josiah Keim, Ashland, Ohio.

"Quiet Observer" is meeting with many friends. Brother George A. Copp writes:

"Quiet Observer" of the EVANGELIST has "Christ formed" in him, if I mistake not; and seems to have the spirit of Christ, without which all our profession, be he preacher or laymen, will avail nothing. This "Quiet Observer" has better things in store for him in the future, if man does not overlook him as they frequently do, as in David's case. He is one of the men that can do much as a peacemaker, for such are called rightly God's children, and we might conclude that those who are not peacemakers are not the children of God. This "Observer" is a life saver and deserves a white ribbon, for such was our Divine Master. But life-destroyers should have a black badge and classed where they properly belong, to the children of darkness. Let us have another like him.

At the close of his letter Brother Copp asks the name of "Quiet Observer," but his name must not be given, for then he would no longer be "Quiet Observer." Meanwhile our readers may be assured that "Quiet Observer" takes far away looks over the brotherhood, and that he knows pretty well what is going on, and from what he sees and experiences he makes up his "Observations."

Quiet Observer

From my note-book I cull this week the following observations at random.

1. There are people who are always in trouble. Depend upon it they carry their trouble with them. This observation was caused by a man who was telling what bad neighbors he had. He has moved about a great deal and found conditions much the same everywhere. Of course he did, and will until he has a house-cleaning under his vest.

2. There are church members who are always miffed at other members and make this their excuse for not working. They are a poor lot and are bound to have some excuse for their laziness. This observation came from reflecting about the man mentioned above. It is a habit I have of using ordinary experiences as illustrations of Christian experience. Life is not fenced into compartments but is all one, even tho for convenience we have different names for different phases of it. But to return to the observation, who has, not known persons who seem to carry their own feelings outside or dragging in the way of other people while their feelings for others lie so deep as seldom to be aroused? It is an unfortunate condition, especially when coupled with obstinacy for then the person is not only bound to make others share the trouble and keep it up forever. Deliver us O Lord from the likes of such.

3. I was talking one day last week with a woman who censured the church very much because

it had not taken in hand and discipline another woman who has been "talking about" her. After trying in vain to show that such difficulties should be settled by the individuals concerned without dragging the church into the squabble. I thought of the proverb, "He that passeth by and meddleth with strife not belonging to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." I also made up a proverb which is this, "The church which continually meddleth with the idle gossipings of quarreling people is like one that taketh three dogs by the ears." Selah.

4. A certain good man is going to change pastorates, not because he has failed in his duty in any way nor because he is charged with any sin, but simply because he feels and a few of the people feel, that a change would be good. It may be so. Human nature is seemingly queer and must be humored. People will leave tried friends to take up with the advice of strangers. And they will tire of a good pastor and take up with one who for all they know will lead them into all manner of trouble. It is the thirst for variety. But I have observed that the faithful workers get such a variety in their own experience that their spiritual appetites are keen and they need not to be tempted by strange salads every so often. A working congregation does not tire readily of a good pastor. Is it not true?

On the other hand why do pastors tire of good congregations? Some because they are "preached out" and being indolent seeks a new place where old sermons may be used; some perhaps because of larger salaries offered but not many of either class. It is the old truth, "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country." When a pastor is so long at a place it becomes his "own country" and "familiarity breeds contempt." Let us not change pastors therefore oftener than necessary but at the same time let us not judge harshly those who accommodate themselves to the weakness of human nature by changing fields and means of labor.

Brevities

In the private schools of China a teacher is paid about one halfpenny a day for each pupil.

The Peruvians have admirable public roads. One is 1,500 miles long.

In three years the expense of running an Atlantic steamer exceeds the cost of construction.

Helen Gladstone, daughter of the "Grand Old Man" of England, is said to be at present writing a life of her famous father.

A German doctor finds that only in one case out of fifteen are both eyes in good condition.

Illinois apples were awarded the first prize at the Paris Exposition.

Projectiles for modern big and rapid-fire guns require about half their weight in powder to fire them.

Whalebone is found in the mouth of the whale-bone whale, where it forms the substitute for the teeth, of which the animal is otherwise destitute.

The alligator and the crocodile possess great strength in the tail. One blow from either of these animals is powerful enough to break the leg of a strong man.

Up to a short time ago the patterns on linoleum were printed. By means of a new machine the various colors are inlaid, so that patterns cannot wear off.

In the seclusion of an oriental harem a woman invented the weaving of cashmere shawls, and besides this evidence of brilliance gave such wise advice to her husband that he changed her name from Nourmahal (light of the harem) to Nourjehan (light of the world). The same woman invented attar of roses.